



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

Bulletin Number 11: Friday 22 November 2024

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, our wonderful Year 6 pupils led a moving Celebration of the Word, inspired by their recent visit to PGL and the theme of 'Living Life to the Full' from St John's Gospel. Linked to the Church's celebration of Youth Week, the children reflected on accepting challenges and trusting in Jesus to guide us through life's trials. They composed and shared beautiful prayers, encouraging the whole school family to reflect on how Jesus journeys with us, whether facing life's obstacles or climbing a wall at PGL! Well done Year 6 it was a joyful and uplifting reminder of the strength and courage our faith brings to every challenge. This week, our school community came together to mark Red Wednesday, a day of prayer and action in support of Aid to the Church in Need. Through prayers, lessons, and thoughtful discussions, we united in raising awareness and to support the vital work of Aid to the Church in Need, bringing hope and comfort to communities in need around the world.

WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the word with your children.

RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

If you are applying for a school (Reception) place for next September, applications should be made by the **15th January 2025** via the [Stockport Admissions website](#). Please note: *if your child attends St Mary's Nursery, this does not guarantee your child a place in the school.* You will need to complete the application form using the link above by the closing date.



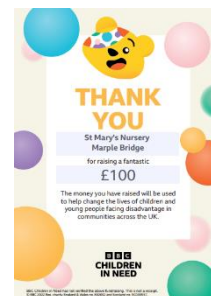
TRUST INSET DAY



A reminder: next Friday, **29 November**, our school will be closed to children as staff from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust family of schools gather for an INSET day focused on the Trust's vision and values and the introduction of the new Religious Education Directory (RED) and Prayer and Liturgy Directory (PLD) issued by the Catholic Education Service and the Bishops of England and Wales. These documents guide how we teach Religious Education and celebrate worship in Catholic schools.

CHILDREN IN NEED UPDATE

As reported last week, a huge well done to our Nursery children for their fantastic effort in supporting Children in Need! Through their wonderful Pudsey Bear biscuit-making and sale, they raised an incredible £100 for this important cause. The children worked with great enthusiasm, carefully decorating their biscuits and sharing them with parents. Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative, helping us to make a difference in the lives of children in need across the UK. What a brilliant achievement!



DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR

headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk

Company No 7937154



St Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

MEDICAL NEEDS & MEDICATION



Please remember that, if your child needs medication at school, we can only administer this when it has been **prescribed by a doctor**. We cannot administer over the counter medicine like Calpol, unless it has been prescribed. Similarly, children should not bring throat sweets, ointments etc to self-administer. Any medication being sent into school must be logged at the school office so that the appropriate forms can be completed. Our staff are also required to check the prescription information so please present any medicine in its original

packaging. If children have longer term care needs, such as allergies or underlying medical conditions, we work with appropriate health professionals to ensure that plans are in place detailing the care required. Our staff are appropriately trained so please always talk to Mrs Major or Mrs Towell, if you have any questions or concerns about medical needs.

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

It was wonderful seeing all the children and their siblings beaming for their school photographs yesterday – the children look so smart. You should have received a proof of your child's photograph which has a web link and QR code to order copies. You have 14 days to place your orders.

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

ROAD SAFETY WEEK 2024



This week, we have been proud to support Road Safety Week 2024, focusing on the importance of keeping our school community safe and promoting the theme: **After the crash, every road victim counts**. Our dedicated Community Custodians, supported by Mrs. Oldfield, have been a visible presence on Lowry Drive, reminding parents and carers to park responsibly and encouraging the use of Park and Stride. By parking a little further from school and walking the last part of the journey, families are helping to reduce congestion and ensure a safer environment for all our children. The children handed out reminders to parents about safe driving and compiled a questionnaire to understand driver behaviour that

they will collate and analyse in their maths lessons. As a whole school we have also completed activities about road safety. Thank you to everyone for supporting this initiative and for prioritising safety during the busy school drop-off and pick-up times. **Please can I remind parents to not park on Lowry Drive, especially now the winter months are upon us and following the accident last winter. This is in the interests of the safety of all our children and families.**

WHAT AGE FOR APPS

It can be very easy to let children have free access to various apps on their electronic devices. However, please remember that most gaming and social media apps have age restrictions which make them unsuitable for primary aged children. Please check your child's device after reviewing some of the common app age restrictions detailed [HERE](#). Children may say their friends have these apps. However, it is important that parents/ carers help set boundaries to keep children safe online.



UK GDPR



At St Mary's, we are required to collect and hold certain information about our children and their families. All data we hold is subject to UK GDPR and data protection legislation. You can access our suite of appropriate policies, including privacy notices, on our website [HERE](#).

CHRISTMAS DINNER



favourite jumper instead.

Save the date! On Thursday 12 December we will hold our Christmas dinner in school. This traditional festive lunch will comprise turkey with all the trimmings and a festive desert. There is also a vegetarian option. If your child does not normally have a school dinner, but they wish to have one on this occasion as a 'one off', please let Mrs Towell in the school office know by **Thursday 28 November**. After this date it will not be possible to order an extra lunch. £3.33 can be paid on Parent Pay. Christmas jumpers may be worn on Christmas Dinner day. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, do not fear - you are not expected to buy one; you can let your child wear a

WINTER WONDERLAND

Our Y1 and Y2 pupils have been asked to sing at Winter Wonderland in Marple Bridge on **Saturday 7 December**. Please complete the below form to sign up to support us, as we celebrate Christmas in the community. Uniform will not be required and Christmas jumpers are encouraged. We will meet at the main stage and the children will sing for around 20 minutes. Parents are asked to remain at the stage whilst the children are singing. We are waiting to hear from the organisers regarding what time our slot on stage will be, but we believe it will be sometime after 2pm. We will contact parents again once this has been confirmed. <https://forms.office.com/e/65jpjVhiM>



PTA NEWS



The 2024 St Mary's School Christmas Fair will be Friday 6 December – 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Please can you send in the following items over the remaining weeks in November and December to support the fair and make it an enjoyable and successful event...

Thursday 28 November - bottles for the Bottle Tombola. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

Friday 6 December - DAY OF THE FAIR any further donations of unwanted gifts for Elfridges, chocolates or bottles (*non-uniform day in exchange for donations on 6 December only.*) We will once again also be having a Teddy Adoption

stall so if you have any new/ great condition teddies that you would like to donate please send these in from 2 December.

Tickets for Father Christmas will go on sale online in pre bookable slots - details for this shortly on the [PTA website](#). If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate please contact the PTA: pta@stmaryspta.org.uk. We have the grotto, Elfridges, toasting marshmallows, tombola room, tree of treats, games, tuck shop and the kitchen will be selling mulled wine, hot dogs and turkey sandwiches! We need volunteers though - please fill in the google sheet or message 07857940044 if you can help - no experience necessary! https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1g-hEMIVRjeMNPjLjX_XPFsm9wRFyDvx756s85HwkKsA/htmlview

WREATH MAKING

Please join us for our first ever wreath making class - run by the wonderful Zoe from The Flower House Marple. The price is £30 and includes a drink, and all the materials you will need to make a gorgeous wreath. Sunday December 1st 6-8pm. <https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/wreath-making/>

PTA Tea Towels!

We are excited to bring you the 2024 tea towels featuring self-portraits of our wonderful St Mary's children (and staff!). Order deadline is Monday 2nd December. Prices start at £7 for 1, £13 for 2 and £18 for 3. To order, please contact Charlotte - 07703546474 or email crnclarke@btinternet.com
The perfect Christmas gift!

IN NOVEMBER, WE REMEMBER



During November, the month of remembrance, we have been reflecting on the importance of honouring and praying for those who have died. The children have created a stunning poppy artwork, on display in our front entrance, as a tribute to those who have given their lives in wars and conflicts. Alongside this, the children have been holding special prayers for loved ones who have passed away, members of our local community, and all those who have died in wars, particularly in the past year. This beautiful artwork and heartfelt prayer remind us of the power of gratitude, reflection, and hope for peace in our world.

Loving God,
In this month of November,
we remember all those who have gone before us:
our family members, friends, and members of our community.
We pray especially for those who gave their lives in service,
so that we may live in freedom and peace.
May their courage and sacrifice never be forgotten.
Comfort those who grieve and strengthen us
to work for justice and peace in their memory.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.

THE MONTH (OR SO) AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
	<i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. New dates in bold.</i>
28 November	Bottle donations for the Bottle Tombola. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic.
29 November	INSET Day – school closed to children.
30 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am.
1 December	PTA Wreath Making, further details: Wreath Making Workshop – St Mary's PTA .
2 December	Advent Service 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
4 December	Junior Festival of Carols – St George's Church, Heavily 7:30pm (led by Y3).
6 December	Any further donations of unwanted gifts for the Christmas Fair: Elfridges, chocolates or bottles (<i>non-uniform day in exchange for donations on this date only.</i>)
6 December	PTA Christmas Fair 3:30pm – 5:00pm.
10 December	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm. (Note date change.)
11 December	Pantomime at Romiley Forum (Nursery – Year 6).
12 December	Christmas Dinner day.
15 December	Advent carol service at Holy Spirit church, Marple. 4:00pm – 5:00pm.
17 December	Y4/Y5 Swimming Gala 9:30 – 11:30am at Grand Central.
18 December	Y1/Y2 Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm.
20 December	Carol Service – 1:30pm in the hall. All Welcome.
20 December	School closes for the Christmas holidays.
6 January 2025	School reopens following the Christmas holidays.

Wishing you all a peaceful and hopefully ice free weekend! Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.